



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

**SENATOR HENRI MARTIN**  
THIRTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

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SENATE MINORITY WHIP

**RANKING MEMBER**  
BANKS COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I am Sen. Henri Martin, and I am testifying in favor of Proposed H.B. No. 5096: AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE OF UNFUNDED MANDATES.

This bill requires the approval of two-thirds of the members of both chambers of the General Assembly for passage of any new or expanded unfunded mandate on municipalities.

I represent the City of Bristol and several small towns: Harwinton, Plainville Plymouth, and Thomaston.

The local leaders in my towns - as well as the property taxpayers in these towns - Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Unaffiliated - want me to send a message to my colleagues here in the state legislature.

They are fed up with unfunded state mandates that are passed here in Hartford. Unfunded mandates drive up local costs, they strain local budgets - which are already under incredible pressure, and they drive up people's property taxes.

By passing this bill, we will set up an obstacle to future state mandates. It would let local property taxpayers know that we are listening to them and that we want to do all we can to ease their property tax burdens.

I think we can all agree that our state's budget challenges and our future budget deficits are not simply a Democrat or Republican problem. It is all of our problems, collectively.

And it is not going away until we stand together as Connecticut residents and take immediate bold steps.

Passing this bill will mark a step forward in the path toward unfunded mandate relief in Connecticut, and I hope it is just one of many positive steps we will take in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of H.B. 5096.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henri Martin".

Senator Henri Martin

31<sup>st</sup> District

BRISTOL, HARWINTON, PLAINVILLE, PLYMOUTH, THOMASTON